SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, Jammu and Kashmir has always been a very high priority in the Ministry of Tourism. In fact in the Seventh Plan we have disbursed an amount of Rs. 237 lakhs to J&K. The amount released so far is of course only Rs. 112 lakhs because a lot of it has not been utilized, the things have not come in time. But Ladakh is a major proirity area and in all our marketing efforts abroad Ladakh is included.

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जिस तरह से सिक्किम के लिए नई पालिसी बनाई गई है, उसी तरह से नागालैंड में भी कोई रास्ता खोलने का कोई सुझाव मंत्रालय के पास क्यों नहीं है। आज तक भी वहां टूरिस्ट ऐलान नहीं किए जाते ?

SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU: Sir, we are analysing the entire policy of opening up these restricted areas. Sikkim has been opened up ad we plan to open up other areas. We are discussing that with the Home Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. Papers to be laid. Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Sick and closed Textile Mills in Gujarat

*44. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a number of textile mills are sick and closed in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what is the number of textile mills that are closed in Gujarat because of sickness;

(c) what steps the Central Government are taking to re-open the closed textile Mills in Gujarat;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to provide relief to the unemployed workers of the closed textile mills; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV):

(a) Yes Sr.

(b) 23 textile mills lying closed in Gujarat as on 31-12-89 were sick at the end of December, 87, as per RBI classification.

(c) Re-opening of a closed mill depends on its viability being established before Nodal Agency BIFR. They have been requested to take up cases of closed textile mills on priority basis. Re-opening of non-viable mills may not be possible.

(d) and (e) Government have set up a Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund to provide interim relief to workers rendered unemployed due to permanent closure of textile mills. Upto 1-6-90 an amount of Rs. 9.65 crores was provided to 5735 workers of 7 closed textile mills in Gujarat. The State Government was also advised to take measures for rehabilitation of the affected workers and to ensure payment of their dues.

Payment of Conveyance Allowance to Central Government Employees

*45. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consi-

deration to give monthly conveyance allowance to Central Government employees in near future;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c) The Board of Arbitration (JCM) have given an Award on 15th December, 1989 that the Non-gazetted Central Government Employees, except those who enjoy the benefit of free or subsidised transport or transport subsidy for travel between their residence and place of duty or are in receipt of Conveyance Allowance for that purpose, should be given a transport subsidy of Rs. 30l- per employee per month with effect from 1-4-1989. The above Award is under consideration of the Government.

India's participation in the year of Tourism, 1990-91

*46. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are participating in the year of Tourism 1990-91;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the likely increase in revenue through this project?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The year 1991 will be observed as the year of Tourism in the country with a view to focus attention on India as the Destination of the 90s. Its main objectives are as under:—

(i) Development of the tourism product for future growth of tourism;

(ii) National awareness of the socio-economic benefits of tourism;

(iii) Improving the international image of the country as a tourist destination

(iv) Creation of climate conducive for growth of tourism in the country.

(c) It is not possible to separately assess increase on account of this project.

Smuggling activities on Goa coast

*47. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of increased smuggling activities on Goa coast in the recent past; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to combat smuggling more effectively in this region?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) It is not possible to have any reliable estimate about its increase or decrease on the Goa Coast. However, two seizurs of silver worth Rs. 1.8 crores approximately and Rs. 1.66 crores approximately were effected on 31-1-1990 and 12-2-90 by the Police and Customs respectively. This is not necessarily indicative of increased smuggling activity.

(b) The anti-smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country including that on the Goa Coast has been geared up. Close co-ordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling. Regular patrolling of the sea by the Customs and the Coast Guard is being undertaken and recently the services of Naval Helicopters have also been utilised for patrolling.